REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-12 were pending at the time of examination. No claims have been amended or canceled. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracho et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,605) in view of Laitinen (XML Messaging, Tik-11.590, 2/12/2000) and in further view of Brooke et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,343). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 describes a method for server side filtering of XML messages in a distributed network. In particular, claim 1 recites the steps of:

"(a) determining, by a JMS provider, if the message is to be sent to a topic subscriber;
(b) determining if the message is an extensible markup language (XML) message that conforms to an XML schema specified by a selected XSLT filter;
(c) transforming the XML message to form a modified XML message; and
(d) sending the modified XML message to the topic subscriber."

That is, the process (on the server side) determines whether a message is to be sent to a topic subscriber and if the message is an XML message that conforms to an XML schema by a selected XSLT filter. If these conditions hold true, then the XML message is <u>transformed</u> into a modified XML message, and this <u>modified</u> XML message is sent to the topic subscriber.

The applicant respectfully submits that no such server-side process is shown in Bracho, Laitinen and Brooke, alone or in combination. Even if one, for the sake of argument, were to agree with the Examiner's interpretation of the hubs in Bracho being equivalent to the servers in the applicant's invention, the filtering mechanisms in the hubs at best correspond to a "send" or "do not send" decision, that is based on various factors specified by the subscriber. That is, at best, Bracho would render obvious step (a) of claim 1. Bracho does not show any determining if the message is an XML message that conforms to an XML schema specified by an XSLT filter, as described in step (b). Bracho does not show any <u>transformation</u> of the message, as described in step (c), and Bracho does not show any sending of a <u>modified</u> XML message, as described in step (d).

On the contrary, Bracho states, for example that "Subscribers specify what they want based on an <u>event type</u> and on the <u>content</u> of the event" (col. 5, lines 24-25), " and

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"...subscribers can request that the hub filter the incoming flow of events and only pass events to the subscribers that match certain criteria." (col. 11, lines 26-28). Nowhere in Bracho is the notion of transformation of "events" mentioned. Bracho only mentions that an event is either passed on (unchanged), or not passed on, based on the filter criteria specified by the topic subscriber.

Furthermore, as noted in previous responses and in the application, the server side filtering in the applicant's invention relates to several advantages that cannot be accomplished by conventional techniques. For example, the XSLT filtering mechanism makes it possible to transmit only selected portions of the XML message "over the wire" (see, for example, page 2, line 18 through page 3, line 3), which preserves network bandwidth and improves latency (see, for example, page 7, lines 5-10 of applicant's specification). Thus, to the extent that Bracho preserves bandwidth and improves latency, it uses mechanisms that are different from the mechanisms by which bandwidth is preserved in the applicant's invention. Whereas Bracho preserves bandwidth by only submitting certain messages to the subscriber, the applicant's methods, apparatus, and computer program product preserve bandwidth by sending modified (smaller) versions of the original XML messages to the topic subscribers. For at least the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted the rejection of claim 1 is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.
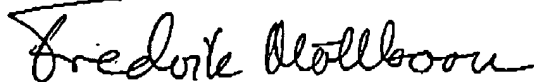
Independent claims 5 and 9 relate to an apparatus and to a computer program product, respectively, and have limitations that are similar to the limitations of claim 1. Thus, for reasons substantially similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1, the Applicant respectfully contends that the rejection of independent claims 5 and 9 are unsupported by the cited art and should be withdrawn.

Claims 3-4, 7-8 and 11-12 all depend from independent claims 1, 5 and 9, respectively, and the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above.

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CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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